

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PBOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: REACTION TO BOUNDARY RESCUE AGREEMENT

REF: USBERLIN 2179

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND WEST BERLIN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED OCT 31 ADN ARTICLE CONTAINING REACTION OF SOV EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN TO BOUNDARY RESCUE AGREEMENT. ADN QUOTED SOV EMB AS GREETING GDR'S DECISION ON AGREEMENT BUT CRITICIZING JOINT SENAT-ALLIED STATEMENT (REFTEL). ADN SAID "NAIVE ATTEMPTS BY THE WESTERN SIDE CAUSED ASTONISHMENT" BY ATTEMPT QUOTE TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE REALIZATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GDR AND THE SENAT OF WEST BERLIN DEPENDED ON APPROVAL BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF, ASIS WELL-KNOWN, THE NO LONGER EXISTING SOVIET SECTOR. THESE ATTEMPTS CANNOT ALTER THE INDISPUTABLE FACT THAT BERLIN IS AND REMAINS THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE GDR. UNQUOTE.

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2. EAST HAVING REFUTED ALLIED STATEMENT, SENAT SPOKEMAN RETURNED IN COIN BY DENYING ADN ALLEGATION THAT WEST BERLINERS HAD AGREED TO CONSTRUCT FENCES OR OTHER BARRIERS AT CRITICAL POINTS ALONG WATERS AT SECTOR-SECTOR BOUNDARY. ACCORING TO SPOKESMAN, SENAT HAD ALREADY CONSTRUCTED A FEW LOW FENCES AND DID NOT PLAN TO ERECT ANY MORE. (SENAT RELUCTANCE TO DO MORE IS BASED ON DESIRE NOT TO IMPEDE ESCAPEEES FROM GDR.) ONLY CONSTRUCTION FLANNED IN FUTURE WAS SERIES OF PILLARS WHICH WOULD CONTAIN OPTICAL (REVOLVING RED LIGHT) AND AURAL (SIREN) WARNING DEVICES AS WELL AS LIFE-SAVING RINGS AND LINES. NO OBLIGATIONS HAD BEEN PLACED ON SENAT BEYOND THOSE SPECIFIED IN AGREEMENT.

3. POLICE DIRECTOR HERRMANN, CHIEF OF POLICE KREUZBERG, ANTICIPATES RESCUE PILLARS WILL CREATE PROBLEMS WHEN INSTALLED. HERRMANN PREDICTED THER WILL BE FALSE ALARMS AS DRUNKS AND ROWDIES LEARN THEY CAN CALL GDR PATROL BOATS TO SCENE BY USING DEVICES MENTIONED ABOVE, AND THERE WILL THEN BE COMPLAINTS FROM GDR.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THIS EXCHANGE OF COUNTERINTERPRETATIONS, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE MOST BERLINERS LOOK AT BOUNDARY RESCUE AGREEMENT AS A VERY SMALL STEP IN DIRECTION OF MORE NORMAL SITUATION IN THEIR CITY. AFTER ALL, IT REPRESENTS FIRST TIME IN MODERN MEMORY THAT WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED FORMAL PERMISSION FROM GDR TO DO SOMETHING ON WHAT GDR CLAIMS IS ITS TERRITORY. GARBAGE CLEANUPS, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE ARRANGED THROUGH INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS. GEORGE

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